gmy

Rt. 6, Frederick, Md. 21701

4/13/69

Mr. Phil Willis
6911 Wabash Circle
Dallas, Texas 75217

Dear Phil,

Sorry I could not have been in New Orleans when you were. I wanted to meet you and your wife and to see your unpublished pictures. I had to be in court in Washington.

I am still anxious to see the unpublished pictures. There remains the possibility they contain what may be of value. Billings, when he was at LIFE, never told me about them after I arranged for him to have you go to New York with them. If he saw what is to be seen. Few people have the detailed knowledge necessary. Almost as few have the perception (and I am not sure I have). Of course, it is also possible they contain nothing of great value. But if they do, the more time that passes, the less value it has.

By now you know I am not about to fleece you or take advantage of you. I still want to examine them carefully because, in addition to other things, I will soon return to writing in which they may be pertinent. I will not use them without permission. With your permission, I would like one or two others with whom I work and who are totally trustworthy also to examine them. If you have a set of prints of the unpublished ones only, would you please lend them to me? Or, better, would you please make an extra set that I can hold? From time to time reporters come here. If I have them and can show them, there is always the possibility some publication may get interested and I might be able to put you in touch with a deal of some kind, where you could negotiate a possible use. Also, you are protected against loss or damage if you have a set in a different place.

There are many things we have not discussed because we have never been together. I was in Dallas in November, very briefly, but I then expected to see you in New Orleans. When you were at Downtown Lincoln-Mercury, was there a Jack Lawrence there? What, if anything, do you remember about him? Or a Starr?

I am, of course, disappointed about what happened- and didn't happen- in New Orleans. However, an important, historic record nonetheless was made there. This time your wife's important knowledge was made a matter of record. I think that is important. You are now both part of the history of our country.

My best to you both. Look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,